National Policy for Disaster Management

† 2751. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a national policy for disaster management;

(b) what has been the stand of Government in respect of the explanation sought by Delhi High Court on a public interest petition filed in this regard;

(c) whether Government are considering *de novo on* the policy for disaster management, after the report of HUDCO and MTPC to the effect that 190 districts in the country are prone to flood, earthquake and cyclone; and

(d) if so, the details regarding the stage of formation of Disaster Management Policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OFAGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPADYESSO NAIK): (a) and (d) Institutional arrangements exist for natural disaster management at the National, State and District levels. The mechanism for financing the relief is also laid down in accordance with the recommendations of the Finance Commissions appointed from time to time. Disaster mitigation measures are reviewed from time to time keeping in view the experience of managing the disasters. In the wake of the earthquake in Gujarat, a National Committee on Disaster Management has been set up under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister having representation of the National and State Level Political parties, *inter-alia* to suggest necessary institutional and legislative measures need for an effective and long-term strategy to deal with major natural calamities in future.

(b) The matter is *sub-judice*.

(c) No, Sir.

Status of Special Category State for natural calamities affected Orissa

2752. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Super Cyclone 1999, serious drought situation in 2000 and the recent floods in Orissa have destroyed the

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

economic condition of the State and financial condition of individual families, in view of the special situation created by the continuous natural calamities; if so, whether Government would change the guidelines of declaring Orissa as special category State; and

(b) whether Government would consider to declare Orissa as a special category State and extend special financial assistance for restoration and rehabilitation of the affected people and restoration of the State as a whole?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is no proposal under consideration of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation to declare Orissa as a special category State.

Advertised Post of ADG in ICAR

2753. SHRI R. N. ARYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the post of Assistant Director General (ADG) (ARIS), Indian Council of Agricultural Research, has been advertised;

(b) whether Principal Bench of Central Administrative Tribunal, in a case filed by the removed ADG (ARIS), directed the respondents to maintain *status-quo* as on a particular date; and

(c) if so, whether the Council has ensured that above advertisement does not amount to contempt of court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Dr. S.S. Tomar was holding the post of ADG(ARIS) on tenure basis for a period of five years *w.e.f.* 15.1.1998. His tenure has been curtailed with the approval of the competent authority *vide* order dated 31st January, 2001 on account of his unsatisfactory and below average performance and he has been posted as Sr. Scientist, CIAE, Bhopal *i.e.* the post he was holding prior to his appointment as ADG(ARIS). Dr. Tomar was relieved from the post of ADG(ARIS) on 31st January, 2001. Dr. Tomar has filed an application in CAT Principal Bench, Delhi against curtailment of his tenure and the Tribunal in its interim directions dated 21.5.2001 has ordered to maintain *status-quo* as on date. One the date of interim direction, the position held by Dr. Tomar being of Sr. Scientist, advertising the vacant post of ADG(ARIS) does not in any way amount to contempt o^{r} Court.